

1 VISIBILITY AND SYNCHRONIZATION IN A MULTI TIER SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL

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4 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

6 Methods and systems with which manufacturers can review reliable in-  
7 formation about supply conditions including multiple supplier tiers, and maintain or-  
8 der collaboration for an extended supply chain. The manufacturer can: view updates to  
9 supply chain conditions; aggregate information from multiple products; collect and  
10 analyze information regarding supply chain performance of multiple supplier tiers;  
11 obtain feedback information for its design process in response to supply chain perform-  
12 ance; review and enforce compliance with contract terms between the manufacturer  
13 and its suppliers; direct first tier and later tier suppliers to allocate parts in relatively  
14 short supply to particular projects within an enterprise in which the manufacturer is in-  
15 cluded; can define dictionaries of data shared among tiers, such as part numbers; and  
16 determine for which parts there is no strong preference in design or manufacture, al-  
17 lowing its first tier and later tier parts suppliers to use any design that meets design  
18 specifications.